

Budget & External Affairs Division
Weekly Report for
Week of January 17, 2000 to January 21, 2000

Accomplishments:

External Affairs/Congressional:

Talking Points and graphics for Dr. Baker's presentation on the FY2001 Budget roll-out were submitted to Jim Carter.

A proposal was submitted for the NOAA airport exhibit space in local airports.

A proposal was submitted for the NOAA toys idea for a partnership with NOAA and a toy manufacturer.

Dave Evans briefed the following new staffers on "OAR 101", an overview of OAR's mission and activities:

Carol McGuire, staffer for Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM)
Craig Felner, staffer for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)
Berg, Nadine and Lucy Hand, staffers for Representative Jose Serrano (D-NY)

Dr. Eddie Bernard briefed the following staffers with an update on the Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program:

Jodi Linker, staffer for Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
John Rayfield, staffer on the House Resources Fisheries subcommittee
Warren Weinstein, staffer for Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Margaret Cumisky, staffer for Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
Patrick McGarey, staffer for Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI)

On January 21st, Dr. James Meagher gave briefings in the Southern Oxidants Study (SOS) to the following Hill staffers:

Walker Barnett, staffer for Senator Bill Frist (R-TN)
Rachel Jones, staffer for Senator Fred Thompson (R-TN)
Floyd DesChamps, staffer on the Senate Commerce subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space
Rob Hood, staffer on the House Science subcommittee on Energy and Environment

Olwen Huxley, Andrew Larkin (Leg Affairs - OAR), and Jim Schufrieder (Leg

Affairs-NWS) took a group of congressional staffers to visit NOAA facilities and programs in Miami and Key Largo, Florida. The staffers were: Tom Vanek, majority staffer on the House Science Energy and Environment subcommittee, Jean Fruci, minority staffer on the House Science full committee, Maggie Quaranto, legislative director for Rep. Jerry Costello (ranking minority member on the House Science Energy and Environment subcommittee) and David Whaley, staffer on the House Resources Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans subcommittee. The visit included a boat trip and snorkeling session on the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary and overview of NURP activities in the area including *Aquarius*, and tours and talks at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (RSMAS) -OAR Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (CIMAS), the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML), and the NWS Tropical Prediction Center.

Budget Formulation/Planning:

'00 Approp.: Edited OAR table multiple times to reflect 0.38% & 7.5% cuts.

'01 Cgr.: Updated OAR table multiple times spreading final OMB add-back levels, ATBs, etc.; updated OAR change narratives and OAR object class chart (4-digit) multiple times; worked w Olwen & others to review/update our section of NOAA Budget Summary and on write-up explaining NOAA NURP/SG decision; marked up several NOAA tables/exhibits (incl. spread of ATBs & '99 R&D obligations); worked w NOAA & DOC to get reasonable spread of ATBs; got NOAA acceptance of covering Boulder Rent w OAR ATBs, increasing USWRP initiative, netting C&GC increases & decrease, treating GLERL transfer as an ATB, etc.; edited Stephanie's talking points for Baker on OAR proposals; edited/updated NOAA narrative on Critical Infrastructure Protection programs.

OAR Bgt./Admin. Conf. (prior weeks): Made final contact w panel members - agenda + confirm handouts, prepared/gave dry run of my overview & presentation slides (1/7), and participated in conf. & led budget formulation & plng. panel (1/11-13).

Administrator's Distribution Fund: Obtained copy of fund criteria.

Facility/Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Issues

'02 Initiatives: Participated in 1/5 & 1/20 meetings of Facilities & Construction Workgroup. Group settled on process and schedule for reviewing & prioritizing FY '02 PAC initiative proposals.

Management/Policy/Program Analyses & Plans

'00 OAR Oper. Plan: Incorporated final changes in draft & sent to NOAA for 1/14

mtg. w OAR.

1st Qtr. Rev.: Participated in 1/21 preparatory meeting for NOAA's 1st Quarter Review (2/24) and sent out call for OMI inputs.

Budget Execution/Administrative Services:

Met with the OAR Budget Conference Planning Group to review comments from evaluation forms, action items and format to address action items. Conference Coordinator will have summary report with action items drafted by the end of January for Group to review.

Met with NURP Director to discuss funding options for Goddard and deob assessments. Discussed conference language legalities versus political ramifications. We came up with a proposal in which the NURP Director will get final approval by OAR DAA and AA.

Distributed NOAA's Audit report to OAR financial staff for review and comments.

Provided NOAA Budget the Line Item/PPA/RA/AA spread for the FY 2000 corporate costs, Goddard Assessments and PY Deobligation.

Worked with OAR Staff and NOAA Budget to obtain a task number and accountability control code for the budget item 'Boulder Facilities Operations'.

Web/Boulder Activities

Completed draft agenda for congressional staff visit on 2001 budget

Set up and conducted meeting with Joint Institutes staff, working through issues of how the JI's will be featured on the new OAR web site and identifying action items.

Respond to web, written and phone inquires on NOAA Research.

Set up and led a tailored tour and briefings for 25 9th and 10th graders from Boulder Junior Academy; assisted with tour of eight 5th graders on local weather phenomena.

Dealt with five requests for school tours; working on spring tour schedule.

Finalized policy and guidelines for Tenant Board on use of DSRC common spaces.

Public Affairs

LAST WEEK'S MEDIA EVENTS/MAJOR COVERAGE

(1-1) Temperature and precipitation change graphics from the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, NJ were used to illustrate a short piece “Is It Hot in Here, or Is It Just Me?” in *Newsweek*.

(1-10) Hurricane Andrew was the topic of a German television program broadcast in that country as part of a series on natural disasters. Michael Black, research meteorologist at the Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, FL was interviewed about his family's experiences during the storm.

(1-12) Discovery On-Line, a web-based and cable science show, did a segment on invasive species. Two Sea Grant researchers, Jim Carlton (Connecticut Sea Grant) and Greg Ruiz (Maryland Sea Grant) appeared.

(1-14) Chris Landsea from the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, FL was interviewed by the Discovery Channel about global warming's potential impacts on hurricanes for a special planned on how climate change may/is affecting severe weather events. No broadcast date set.

THIS WEEK'S MEDIA EVENTS/MAJOR COVERAGE

(1-17) *The Washington Post* ran an article on fishhook fleas, another exotic species that has recently appeared in the Great Lakes via ballast water from foreign ships. Researchers at the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, MI were interviewed for the article.

Issues Worked On/Ongoing:

External Affairs/Congressional:

“Research in Your State” continues to be updated. OSS reviewed and commented on 1/3 of states.

Research initiative one-pagers are being written and then reviewed by OSS. These are to be in rough draft form by January 25.

The agenda for the Boulder site visit is being worked on with Carol Knight. The invitation letter draft is due 1/25.

Memo outlining obligations and responsibilities for Congressional add-on program managers to be completed and distributed after meeting with Scot Plank from the grants office on 1/25

First draft of action items from the Budget and Administrative Conference to be

submitted to Mary Langlais by 1/28.

Working on travel arrangements and other logistics for the Sea Grant/OAR meeting in Norman, Oklahoma

Budget Execution/Administrative Services:

Reviewed and approved operating plan memorandums. They are now back for more revisions; Administrative Officer will submit to Secretary for final changes.

Sent email to OAR Financial Staff requesting impact statements on Goddard and deob assessments as well as rescission on program increases. Statements are due January 26th.

OAR Budget Execution Staff and Field Services Director discussed Closeout Variance Report for 8R3A01 on a conference call January 19th. We provided a more detailed statement to NOAA January 24th. OAR Budget Execution Staff will meet with NOAA Budget Execution Team on January 26th to review FY 1999 Closeout issues to include policies and business rules.

Worked on obtaining FY 2000 Rent bills and documentation for the National Capital Area and OAR Field sites. Will meet with Facilities Space Coordinator January 24th to review FY 2000 Rent bills and methodology for bills. After information is completed will set up a meeting to review Rent with OAR's DAA and Executive Director.

Sent fax from NOAA Budget Formulation to Field Services, Sea Grant and OGP requesting OAR to identify the whether grants were for FY 1999 or FY 2000. Have received responses from Sea Grant and Field Services and still waiting for OGP response.

Distributed package for FY 2000 Review of Prior-Year Documents Pending Obligation to OAR Financial Staff with instructions. By February 16th, 2000 all Responses are due to OAR Budget Execution Team with supporting documentation.

Requested from the Field Resources Team a variance explanation for Lake Champlain, based on the FY 1999 closeout numbers.

Processed OAR Lab task request #52.

Approved several reimbursable task plan's.

Reviewed and approved approximately 320 financial operating plan's to transfer funds to the management fund based on the FY 2000 distribution rates.

Entered and approved FOPS

Downloaded FACTS

Reviewed Labor reports - prepared NOAA 34-68 cost adjustments

Signed off on bankcard statements

Telephone trouble (B. Hess, D. Brown) coordinated w/ T. Mellendick

Followed up w/ D. Beran regarding telephone trouble and additional piece of furniture

Worked w/ vendor for price quote on brochure - left it for O. Huxley

Reviewed, corrected, and forwarded for approval OAR/HQ Operating Budget memos.

Reviewed, corrected, and forwarded for approval Group Travel memo

Reviewed, corrected, and forwarded for approval Emergency Fund memo

Meetings:

Attended tenant board meeting (requested legal opinion on some issues, requested price quote on other projects- next meeting 1/25).

Budget Formulation/Planning:

'00 OAR Operating Plan: Incorporate NOAA comments & submit final plan to NOAA. Collect, edit, & consolidate OMI inputs for NOAA 1st quarter Review.

'01 Cgr.: Perform one final review of OAR narratives & exhibits and prepare related exhibits (e.g., R&D crosscut).

Capital Improvements: Distribute to OAR info. on 10/26-28 CIP Conference & OFA allocations.

Web/Boulder Activities:

Set up travel to Silver Spring for next week, talking to principals and scheduling meetings on web site, outreach issues, intranet, and web server statistics.

Continued to work with labs/programs on their descriptions and graphics for web site.

Continued efforts to fill climate panel for CU World Affairs Conference, to commemorate NOAA's 30th anniversary.

Continued planning for OAR Outreach Coordinators spring meeting.

Worked with Boulder Valley School District on NOAA awards for upcoming primary and secondary-school Science Fairs.

Continued work on OAR-Boulder web site; wrote descriptions for labs, data centers.

Worked with systems people and lab personnel on setting up audio-visual equipment, arranging for training and setting policies and schedule for outreach classroom.

Upcoming Items:

External Affairs/Congressional:

AOML/Miami congressional site visit January 19-21.

Sea Grant/OAR meeting in Norman, Oklahoma February 15-16, 2000

Budget Formulation/Planning:

'01 OAR Operating Plan: Develop call from Louisa in December for '01 milestones & out-years.

NOAA Budget Structure Task Force: Represent OAR--NOAA's Cgr. report & revised structure.

Public Affairs:

UPCOMING PRESS RELEASES

(1-24) The Air Resources Laboratory in Silver Spring, MD will begin a series of flights to test the air around Fort Lauderdale, FL for mercury. This is a joint effort with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of the Environment.

(Late January) *Aquarius*, the world's only underwater habitat, will begin its 2000

season with a mission by the JASON educational project Feb. 28-March 10. (Late January) Sea Grant will announce \$4.5 million in grants for projects dealing with aquatic nuisance species.

(Early February) Sea Grant will announce a major grant for Sea Grant minority serving institutions to foster student careers in marine sciences.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DISCOVERY DISCOVERS GFDL: *Discovery* magazine is sending a reporter to the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, NJ this week to talk to some of the scientists about global warming and how it will affect society.

DAM REMOVAL: Jim Hightower, North Carolina Sea Grant Extension fisheries specialist, was interviewed by *Animals* magazine about the impact of dam removal on fish migration. The article is slated to appear in the May or June issue.

JASON/AQUARIUS: The JASON Project will be the first mission of *Aquarius*' 2000 season Feb 28-March 10. The JASON Project is an educational project that takes young aquanauts to various places. This year's project compares extreme situations comparing life aboard a spacecraft with life aboard an underwater habitat.

HEAT AND HUMIDITY: *Environmental Science and Technology* magazine is doing a piece on the projected increases in the Heat Index study conducted by the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, NJ. The piece is slated for spring publication.

CLIMATE CHANGE: Bob Reiss is a writer working on a book for Hyperion Publishers (part of the Disney group) about climate change research.

LIVE FROM THE STORM Set for broadcast March 9 and April 13, 2000, this PBS program will give viewers a look at tornadoes and hurricanes. Aimed primarily at students, the program will include segments with NWS, NESDIS, and OAR staff.

UPCOMING COVERAGE

NO HURRICANES, PLEASE: A National Geographic writer wants to fly during one of the non-hurricane research missions conducted by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, FL, for a piece on new technologies.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN: A SA writer wants to do a major piece on hurricane research for the magazine's Expedition series which focuses on scientific research.

The writer and a camera person have requested to fly aboard one of the planes during a hurricane.